

BRICKS FALL ON VETERANS.

IS GRAND ARMY HALL IN WILMINGTON HAUNTED?

Some Credit the Bricks to Spooks, but Commander Short, who is also a Peete Captain, believes it is a Human Agency.

Members of Mansfield Post in Wilmington are curious to know whether their headquarters in Grand Army Hall, at North Second street and Bedford avenue, are haunted, or whether they are victims of practical jokers. A month ago a lame comrade, when in one of the committee rooms on the ground floor, came near being hit by a brick which seemed to drop from the ceiling. This was not thought strange, for the building was erected soon after the war and had long been regarded as safe. For many years it was occupied by the Forty-seventh Regiment. When the regiment vacated the premises about ten years ago and moved into its new quarters on Main avenue, the post got leases and has since held meetings, encampments, &c., there. A few years ago the building was considered so unsafe that no event of any great magnitude was held there afterward.

So, when the brick came near striking the comrade a month ago, the members of the post shook their heads and said in unison, "I told you so. At least the old building is crumbling." Laughter was sent for, and half a dozen comrades looked all over the room, but failed to discover where the brick belonged. With the exception of small pieces of plaster which had fallen from the walls and ceiling, the room was seemingly just as solid as when the building was first put up.

Three nights afterward another brick fell just as mysteriously in the same room as the first. Then the comrades had visions of spooks, and wondered what it all meant. A second investigation resulted no better than the first. As the Sons of Veterans' organization seemed to take considerable delight in the mystery, the comrades were inclined to believe that the boys were responsible for the brick throwing. All the more did they desire it. For the next two weeks everything was quiet in the building. The comrade consequently began to form theories as to the incriminated.

There was a meeting of the post last Saturday night, and Commander Martin Short, while in the dark meeting room in the rear of the building, heard a sharp noise, like the fall of a brick. He made a hasty exit, and in a twinkling half a dozen men rushed into the room. A man was seen to be restored to the station house and reported to Capt. Atkins. He ordered out the reserves, and in less than ten minutes fifty blue-coated police stood in front of the stable.

The strangers reported then, and the sounds of the preparations for the fight could be plainly heard. Suddenly there was a long, sharp ring, like that of a bell, from the unknown, "shouted one man.

"Who's there?" said a man in low tones. "We're all right," said Detective O'Rourke. "We're not here, man here, and the fight can start right away."

"Good," said the man inside.

The door was opened slowly, and O'Rourke and his comrade, who had been joined by a line of policemen, realized that they had been trapped.

The light was extinguished, and in a moment a dozen men, all with two bricks were found on the floor. The men were all boys, and the comrades concluded that some mischievous person had thrown the bricks into the room. The young men, who had windows, were captured, but a trace of anything was not found.

In another room, the same night, pieces of wood dropped from somewhere, and the incident became known to the comrades that they had been annoying to the comrades that they persuaded Commander Short, who is the Captain of the Fifth, to present police, to make an investigation. Captain Short, however, at once denied it. For the next two weeks everything was quiet in the building. The comrade consequently began to form theories as to the incriminated.

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The trial of David Hampton, colored, upon an indictment charging him with murder in the first degree in killing Mrs. Annette Abrens in her rooms at 424 West Fifty-fourth street on Dec. 29, 1891, was opened yesterday in the General Sessions before Judge Martin.

In his opening for the people Assistant District Attorney Osborne said that Hampton was one of Mrs. Abrens' tenants. She was an aged widow, living alone in her rooms on the second floor of the house, which she owned. Hampton had been out of work and had no money. He was dispossessed a few days before the killing of Mrs. Abrens. It would be shown that he was a man of violent and vindictive disposition. He had threatened to cut the throat of a man who, he believed, had caused his discharge from a hospital in Albany. On Christmas eve, 1890, he was stolen from Mrs. Abrens' bureau drawer. She told her husband that Hampton had taken the bureau. The trial was still suspended, but in the meantime it is known that the bricks were thrown by mischievous boys who belonged to some of the young organizations of the city.

Lately the Columbian Guard of Mansfield Post, which has sixty young women in its ranks, has been doing good work in the community. Some of the women, according to the paper, have also made a search for the ghosts in groups, but have not yet succeeded.

What adds to the mystery is that when the first brick fell in the committee room there was no window open, nor any spot where the brick could be captured.

MANAGER S. P. BLAGDEN RESIGNS.

The Home Office of the North British and Mercantile Dissatisfied.

Samuel P. Blagden, manager of the American branch of the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company since 1890, has resigned at the request of the home office. The request for his resignation is apparently due to the general dissatisfaction which the home office has for a long time felt with its business in this country, and not to any particular dissatisfaction with Mr. Blagden. At any rate Mr. Blagden said yesterday that, while his resignation had been asked for, the most pressing reason was the dissatisfaction of the others of the company. He attributed the desire to change the management to the falling off of the American business of the company. The company at one time ranked second on the list of companies contributing to the insurance business in this country. It is now No. 11 in a total of 147 companies. An investigation of its American affairs by a representative of the home office has just been completed, and the report will be submitted to the Board of Underwriters on the 13th of this month. The arrival of George W. Burnett, manager of the London office, who has been examining into the business, will be a factor in the decision.

In conjunction with Mr. Blagden's resignation it is reported that the company has abandoned its intention of erecting an office building on Broadway between West 32d and 33d street, and will build on West 32d and William street. It paid \$47,000 for the property, which is now understood to be in the market. Mr. Blagden could not say when he would resign, as he is still employed by the company, he said, certainly could afford to build if it wanted to.

Mr. Blagden remains in charge of the American office until his successor is appointed. He has been President of the Board of Underwriters. He belongs to the Union, University, Knickerbocker, and New York Yacht clubs, and the New York and Seawanhaka Corinthian Yacht clubs.

SHERMAN BANK IN SHAPE NOW.

Ready to Go on with Business and to Clear Through the Central National.

Cashier Northern of the Sherman Bank, 974 Broadway, announced yesterday that the bank's solvency had been established and its clearing privilege restored, and that it is ready to resume business. Superintendent Preston of the State Banking Department gave out yesterday this statement of the condition of the bank:

ASSETS.

Loans and discounts.....\$385,046.89

Capital and surplus.....\$24,114.14

Less probable loss.....\$21,482.15

United States bonds.....\$1,140.00

Bank notes and cash.....\$1,488.55

Total.....\$402,900.75

LIABILITIES.

Capital.....\$200,000.00

Less dividends.....\$10,000.00

Due to Central National Bank, New York.....\$40,000.00

Due to United States National Bank, New York.....\$1,000.00

Certified checks.....\$21.14

Bank notes and cash.....\$20.00

Partial payments.....\$2.00

Total.....\$402,900.75

Small Pill. Small Dose. Small Price.

FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THE SUN'S ADVERTISERS.

OFFICES HAVE BEEN OPENED AT

80 EAST 125TH ST.

NEAR FOURTH AV.

1,265 BROADWAY,

NEAR 82D ST.

Select Board.

Kast Side.

ABERDEEN HOTEL,

21st st. and Broadway—A quiet family hotel; modern improvements; elegantly furnished rooms for permanent and transient guests. \$1.00 per day.

CLINTON PLACE, 600, corner 6th av.—Furnished rooms, large and small; every convenience, first-class.

ST. RT. 42 EAST.—Comfortably furnished rooms; every convenience, with or without board; porters.

ST. RT. 50 EAST.—Large and small rooms, nicely furnished; every convenience; excellent board; terms moderate.

10TH ST. 125 EAST.—Excellent double and single rooms; all conveniences; excellent board; terms moderate.

47TH ST. 125 EAST.—A neatly furnished room in a quiet part of the city; good board; terms moderate.

48TH ST. 137 EAST.—near Lexington av.—Desirable lodgings and small rooms; good table board; reasonable rates.

West Side.

11TH ST. 219 WEST.—First-class board and room; all improvements; central location; bear L station; terms reasonable.

HUMSON ROAD, MONMOUTH BEACH,

HIGHLAND AND SAUVINNE.

SHREWSBURY RIVER,

FURNISHED HOTELS.—High-class rooms; 1200. D. B. KELLER, 9, 9th St.

Furnished Houses to Let—Country.

EARLTHURST, N. J.

Ridgefield.—Good, roomy, well-furnished brick residence, 6 miles from New York; 2000 sq. ft.; 10 rooms; 4 bedrooms; 2 bath; central heat; gas; electric lights; water; all modern conveniences; \$1200 per month.

ROCKAWAY, N. J.

Rockaway Park.—Large, comfortable, well-furnished house, 10 miles from New York; 2000 sq. ft.; 10 rooms; 4 bedrooms; 2 bath; central heat; gas; electric lights; water; all modern conveniences; \$1200 per month.

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